

## **The Quote Sandwich:** **How to seamlessly blend your Direct Quotes into the rest of your paper.**

Using direct quotes—from both your authors and from any other piece that’s relevant to your topic and comparison—is both important *and* necessary. It supports your writing by providing additional credibility to your knowledge about the topic of your paper (research).

However, using direct quotes *correctly* and seamlessly mixing them in with your own words is equally important and necessary. Failure to do so can make your writing seem “choppy”, weakening the overall impact and understanding of your writing.

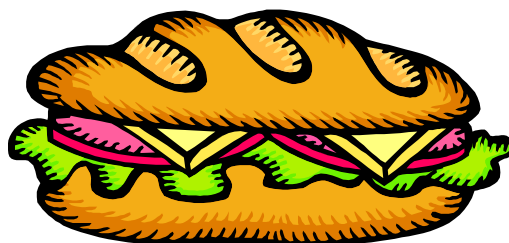
Use parenthetical references in MLA style. Remember to include authors’ names, either in the signal phrase or in the parentheses.

It helps to think of each quote as a **sandwich** that looks like this:

Context

Quote

Explanation



(THE “BREAD”)

Begin by offering **context** for the quote; this might include who said it, when, what’s being discussed. For example:

Isabel Allende tried to pass on her own love of books to her children.

(THE “CHEESE”)

Insert the **quote**, making sure that it’s properly punctuated. For example:

She’s disappointed that her son never reads any fiction. “I’ve tried to imagine,” she says, “how his mind and heart work, without nourishment from books. I can’t” (Allende 114).

(THE “MEAT”)

Then **explain** the connection between your quote and the point (subtopic) you’re trying to prove or discuss—offer some analysis or insight about it. For example:

Books, especially great fiction, have helped Allende find words for her feelings. She implies, here, that they also help understand the feelings of others. Books create empathy.

